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13 MR. LEAVITT: Hello, as he said, my name is
14 Tim Leavitt. I'm the Chairman of the Pahrump Town
15 Board. I was asked by Governor Kenny Guinn to read his
16 prepared statement. And for the record, I would just
17 like to state that this is Kenny Guinn's opinion, and
18 it does not necessarily represent my personal opinion.

19 On behalf of the citizens of the state of
20 Nevada, I would like to welcome you here today, and
21 hope my remarks and the remarks of the many concerned
22 Nevadans who will speak later will be taken in the
23 spirit in which they are intended. That is, honest,
24 constructive, and impassioned public input on an issue
25 that is paramount to the health and safety of every

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1 Nevadan and every American whose home, school or place
2 of business sits along the proposed paths that the
3 deadliest substance on Earth, if the DOE has its way,
4 will take to Nevada.

5 This debate is not new. As many of you know,
6 Nevada's fight to keep the nuclear waste repository
7 from coming to Yucca Mountain has raged for nearly 20
8 years. Unlike many of the policy battles that rip

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9 Washington, however, this fight transcends party
10 affiliation, socio-economic classes, race or gender,
11 and galvanizes Nevadans from every corner of the state
12 in opposition.

13 Though the debate is not new, I must say that
14 recent developments, those that bring us here today,
15 are quite alarming, and raise a number of new concerns.
16 The very purpose for this meeting is in question. You
17 have invited me and many good people here today so you
18 and the Department of Energy can gather public comment
19 on scientific evidence that is not complete and has not
20 been made public. Public comment in the absence of
21 this all-important evidence is premature and grossly
22 irresponsible.

23 Ladies and gentlemen, this is not the way we
24 do business in Nevada. And certainly this is not the
25 way the government should handle its affairs. I am

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1 very disappointed that you have chosen to disregard
2 essentially all of my office's recommendations, and
3 decided to hold these meetings prematurely and over our
4 reasonable objections. We in Nevada will not stand for
5 it.

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6 Therefore, I would strongly advise and today
7 formally request you schedule additional hearings over
8 the course of the coming months across Nevada to give
9 our citizens and their elected leaders a fair and
10 appropriate chance to respond to your completed
11 findings. And I assure you, my outrage at the lack of
12 protocol that has permeated this process will be
13 detailed in letters directly to Secretary Abraham and
14 the President.

15 It is my sincerest hope that you recognize
16 this error and your duty to correct it. I don't have
17 to remind anyone here today that it was not long ago
18 that Nevadans and all Americans were assured that
19 nuclear testing was safe. It was less than 50 years
20 ago. Since that time, the DOE admitted that the
21 aftermath of testing of the hydrogen bomb at Yucca
22 Flats caused innocent Americans to die, and that cancer
23 benefits should be paid to the families of the dozens
24 of men and women who were contaminated by the fallout
25 from nuclear testing. I am not talking about

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1 casualties of war in some distant country. I am
2 talking about the small farmers in neighboring Utah who

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3 tragically suffered from contaminated nuclear air, and
4 I am talking about the Nevada workers and their
5 families who took their government at their word and
6 trudged to and from the test site every day with the
7 assurances that they were not in harm's way.

8 I am talking about generations of patriotic
9 American families, financially wiped out fighting
10 cancer while they awaited some word of admissions or
11 assistance from their government. The DOE pathetically
12 only made that admission just a few years ago, and it
13 came only after years of denial and government red
14 tape. And, we just learned for the first time that
15 germ warfare testing -- imagine, germ warfare testing
16 -- was conducted at the same test site without any
17 knowledge whatsoever by your own congressional
18 delegation or my office.

19 With a track record like this, it is no
20 wonder that Department of Energy lacks credibility, not
21 only in Nevada, but also in our neighboring states.
22 Given the history, I trust you can understand why I
23 view this proceeding as morally illegal, if not
24 technically so.

25 It violates everything we believe in as

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1 Americans. It duplicates all that is wrong in the
2 past, and gives credence to the mistrust and cynicism
3 harbored by so many of our people.

4 Our concerns are clear: This wonderful state
5 has been ignored far too long. We demand fairness and
6 we demand accountability in this process. We will not
7 sit idly by and let the Department of Energy run
8 roughshod over our citizens with empty promises and bad
9 science. We did it once in good faith, and as proud
10 and loyal Americans. But sadly, we did not get back
11 what we gave, and so we have learned from the past. We
12 are not about to repeat it. And today, I, Tim Leavitt,
13 I could give you my opinion on Yucca Mountain, but I
14 did not want to take up any more of your time. I
15 would, however, give my full support to the statements
16 that you will hear today from Mary Wilson, the Pahrump
17 Town Board Vice Chair, and also the liaison to the
18 Nuclear Waste and Environmental Advisory Board. Thank
19 you.